

## Michigan Talking Points

New study shows Michigan's School Readiness Program improves children's language, literacy and math abilities.

The study was conducted by The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. With the cooperation of the Michigan Department of Education, researchers collected data on 865 preschool and kindergarten children in the fall of 2004.

Children who attended Michigan's School Readiness Program showed:

- Gains in vocabulary that were 24 percent higher than the gains of children without the program. (Equal to an additional three months of progress in vocabulary growth)
- Gains in math skills that were 64 percent higher than gains of children without the program without the program.
- Gains in understanding of print concepts that were 117 percent higher than gains of children without the program.

Michigan children gained from attending the preschool program regardless of their ethnic background or economic circumstances.

A large body of research shows that high quality preschool programs can lead to increases in school success, fewer school dropouts, higher graduation rates, less special education and even lower crime rates.

The study is for release Tuesday, Dec. 6. State-specific soundbites by study author Steve Barnett and B-roll of children in pre-K will be available via satellite or CNN Newsource Pathfire. TV producers or reporters should contact Marina Carter at 877-544-8400 (toll free) for satellite coordinates and times.